

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
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FLOOR DEBATE

May 16, 2001

LB 366, 536A, 536, 598, 667, 667A, 692, 692A  
773, 781, 833

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: LB 833, with the emergency clause attached, passes. While the Legislature is in session and capable of transacting business, I propose to sign and do hereby sign LB 366, LB 598, LB 667, LB 667A, LB 692, LB 692A, LB 773, LB 781, and LB 833. We next move to Select File, 2001 Senator priority bills. We've already, yesterday, dealt with LB 536. We now move to LB 536A. (Visitors introduced.) Mr. Clerk, LB 536A.

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 536A, I have no E & R amendments. Senator Chambers would move to indefinitely postpone the bill. Senator Dierks, you would have the option to lay the bill over...lay the bill over at this time, Senator.

SENATOR DIERKS: I believe we should take it up, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Clerk.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Chambers, you're recognized to open on the motion to indefinitely postpone.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the bill...I mean members of the...Mr. President, members of the Legislature, this bill is not wise policy. It would provide money to fund a bill based on a flawed notion. Such being the case, I've got to fight it. I've fought the bill. Now I've got to fight the money. If the principles and the policy contained in the bill are not valid and justifiable, there certainly cannot be a valid reason for spending the state's money to fund it. So I am prepared to wage the kind of battle on this bill that my democratic colleagues were too, for whatever reason, unwilling to wage on a bill that determined the future of their party for the next ten years in this state. This bill, LB 536A, and the underlying bill, LB 536, do more damage than that redistricting bill because these two bills, LB 536 and LB 536A, hurt the public. They plunder the public treasury, and I think that word "plunder" is very appropriate. What I am doing by fighting this bill is to create a record of just how far the Legislature is willing to bend over backward to kowtow to speculators and gamblers with other people's money. Senator Wehrbein has tried to refocus our attention on the way this bill works by saying until a certain level of production of ethanol is reached no